

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-20 USIA-06 DRC-01 /067 W
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R 150703Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5243

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13364

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TQ, JA, EAID

SUBJECT: MICRONESIAN CLAIMS: SPECIAL PAYMENT FOR PONAPEANS

REF: TOKYO 9408 B) TOKYO 3345; C) STATUS LNO 199C JUL 1,1974;

D) TOKYO MEMCON (MAY 14, 1974); E) STATE 047663

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI PASS TO STATUS LNO, SAIPAN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

SUMMARY: PONAPEAN EX GRATIA CLAIMS ADVOCATE LOPEZ HAS LEFT JAPAN AFTER RECEIVING SMALL SETTLEMENT FUNNELED THROUGH FONOFF. FONOFF HOPEFUL IT HAS SEEN LAST OF LOPEZ BUT IS NOT PLACING ANY BETS. END SUMMARY.

1. HAMANAKA OF FONOFF FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIVISION BRIEFED EMBOFF ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LONG-STANDING POLITICALLY SENSITIVE LOPEZ PONAPEAN EX GRATIA CLAIMS CASE. HAMANAKA SAID FONOFF SECRETELY GAVE \$3000 TO LOPEZ VIA SOCIALIST DIETMAN HIDEO DEN ON MAY 22, 1974, FOR DISTRIBUTION BY IRIATE TO 17 SURVIVING PONAPEAN FAMILIES OF WWII IMPERIAL ARMY VOLUNTEERS.
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IN AUGUST, THE FONOFF ADDITIONALLY GAVE LOPEZ \$600 IN

EXCHANGE FOR PROMISE TO LEAVE JAPAN. HAMANAKA CLAIMS THAT BOTH PAYMENTS WERE FROM PRIVATE FUNDS COLLECTED BY PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER YAMADA.

2. LOPEZ LEFT JAPAN SEPTEMBER 25 ECORTED BY A JAPAN HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY OFFICIALS FOR TRIP TO SITE OF FATHERS'S WARTIME DEATH IN NEW GUINEA ON WAY BACK SOLO TO PONAPE. DESPITE AGREEMENT THAT LOPEZ WOULD LEAVE JAPAN IN EXCHANGE FOR PAYMENT, HAMANAKA FEARS LOPEZ MAY RETURN TO TOKYO NEXT YEAR TO PRESS ADDITIONAL CLAIMS. HAMANKAA BELEIVES LOPEZ'S SUPPORTERS AMONG NANYO KENKYU KYOKAI (GROUP OF FORMER JAPANESE RESIDENTS OF MICRONESIA) MAY NOW REGARD HIM AS A POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT.

3. HAMANAKA SAYS HE WILL BRIEF TTPI OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NEW MICRONESIA WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LOPEZ CASE WHILE ON ADVANCE BONES PARTY MISSION FROM OCTOBER 14.

4. HAMANAKA FURTHER REPORTED THAT IN JUNE 1974 MEETING WITH TTPI OFFICIALS HE LEARNED THAT ALL SEVENTEEN PONAPEAN FAMILIES (INCLUDING LOPEZ FAMILY) OSTENSIBLY REPRESENTED BY LOPEZ HAVE FILED CLAIMS WITH MICRONESIA WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION AND, AS OF JUNE, SIX HAD BEEN APPROVED. THIS ASSERTION DOES NOT TALLY WITH LOPEZ STATEMENT TO EMBOFF IN MAY 1974 (REF D) THAT SIXTEEN FAMILIES, BUT NOT HIS FAMILY, HAD FILED CLAIM UNDER 1969 CLAIMS COMMISSION MECHANISM. (AS FOR STATUS LNO: APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF ABOVE.) IN VIEW OF OFFICIAL GOJ POSITION THAT ALL CLAIMS OF SURVIVING PONAPEAN FAMILIES COVERED UNDER EXISTING USG-JAPAN AGREEMENT, FONOFF IS ANXIOUS THA PENDING CLAIMS BE PROCESSED EXPEDITIOUSLY TO FORESTALL PRESSING OF FURTHER PONAPEAN CLAIMS OUTSIDE AGREEMENT.

5. CLEARLY FONOFF IS EMBARRASSED BY GOJ SPECIAL HANDLING AND ANXIOUS TO KEEP MATTER QUIET. FONOFF APPEARS TO HOPE SMALL SETTLEMENT DESPITE LOPEZ'S TWO-YEAR RESIDENCE IN JAPAN WILL END MATTER, BUT WORRIES LOPEZ'S PRIVATE REASONS FOR RETUN TO JAPAN MAY AGAIN BRING HIM TO DOOR OF FONOFF. REGARDIDNG FUTURE GOJ DISCUSSIONS WITH TTPI OR OTHERS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CLAIMS QUESTIONS, EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REMIND FONOFF THAT USG WILL EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO REPRESENT TTPI INTERESTS.
HODGSON

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